

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 07910 132234Z

11  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 /035 W

----- 121886

R 132210Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0857

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 7910

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, CI  
SUBJECT: ARREST OF CECILIA BINIMELIS

REF: STATE 201198

1. GOC SPOKESMAN AUG 12 ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF JOURNALIST CECILIA BINIMELIS FOR ALLEGED TIES TO THE OUTLAWED MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT SAID THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HAD NOT KNOWN SHE WAS A JOURNALIST, AND THAT THEY HAD FOUND EVIDENCE OF MIR ACTIVITY.
2. U.S. CITIZEN MARY VISSE (REFTTEL), A ROOMMATE OF BINIMELIS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT EIGHT DINA AGENTS EFFECTED THE ARREST AT 1630 HOURS ON AUG 10 AND RANSACKED THE HOUSING LOOKING FOR "SUBVERSIVE" LITERATURE. VISSE STATED THAT TO HER KNOWLEDGE NO SUCH LITERATURE WAS FOUND. AS THE AGENTS DEPARTED, ONE OF THEM REPORTEDLY STATED THAT BINIMELIS WOULD BE TAKEN TO CUATRO ALAMOS.
3. VISSEL ALSO CLAIMED THAT BINIMELIS HAD NOT ENGAGED IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973, AT WHICH TIME SHE WAS SERVING IN THE PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. BINIMELIS REPORTEDLY HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN CHURCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, CHILD CARE CENTERS AND SMALL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS. SHE SUPPLEMENTED HER INCOME BY SELLING HOMEMADE JELLY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 07910 132234Z

4. RELIABLE CHILEAN JOURNALISTS TOLD EMBOFF AUG 13 THAT

BINIMELIS ALSO WORKED FOR ERCILLA MAGAZINE AND RADIO CHILENA IN THE PAST THREE YEARS -- CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OR CHURCH ORIENTED. AT THE TIME OF ARREST, SHE WORKED FOR "THE VOICE OF THE ARCHBISHOPRIC" NEWSPAPER. THE JOURNALISTS ALSO DOUBT THAT BINIMELIS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY AND INTENDED TO DISCUSS HER ARREST AUG 13 AT A MEETING OF THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION.

5. BINIMELIS REPORTEDLY HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING AN ECCENTRIC -- SHE TOOK A JOB LAST YEAR AS A LABORER TO DRAMATIZE THE UNEMPLOYMENT PLIGHT OF CHILEAN JOURNALISTS, AND ON ANOTHER OCCASION ALLEGEDLY SHOWED UP AT A MEETING OF THE JOURNALISTS CLUB WITH A PLACARD PLEADING FOR MONEY AND A JOB SO SHE COULD FEED HER CHILD.

6. A PRIEST CONNECTED WITH THE VICARATE OF SOLIDARITY ENTERED A HABEAS CORPUS (AMPARO) REQUEST FOR BINIMELIS. THE VICARIATE TOLD US THAT SHE HAD HAD NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE TO DO WITH THEM, AND THAT THE PRIEST HAD ACTED PERSONALLY.

7. COMMENT: THE GOC'S PREEMPTIVE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DETENTION WAS VERY UNUSUAL. IT PROBABLY WAS MADE IN ORDER TO FORESTALL REACTION FROM THE MEDIA AND THE CHURCH. IN ANY EVENT, IT SHOULD ENSURE THAT SHE RECEIVES REASONABLE TREATMENT.  
POPPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SANTIA07910  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760312-1129  
**From:** SANTIAGO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760855/aaaabvsm.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 201198  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARREST OF CECILIA BINIMELIS  
**TAGS:** CASC, CI, (BINIMELIS, CECILIA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006